

# Washington Lawyer

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## **D.C. Superior Court Releases New Video Explaining Jury Process**

The Superior Court of the District of Columbia released a new juror orientation video in February titled “We the People: A Call to Duty,” which focuses on the pivotal role of the juror in upholding our democratic values in the court system.

D.C. Superior Court Chief Judge Lee Satterfield provides the introduction to the video, which is narrated by University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law professor Andrew Ferguson. Satterfield said that as a life-long District resident, he has been impressed with how a group of people from across the city who have just met can come together and forge a just verdict.

“I am pleased that we have this new video that illustrates just how vital the role of jurors is in the American judicial system,” Satterfield said, explaining that the video is a mini-documentary about the jury process and includes clips from classic American movies to demonstrate what jury duty is all about.

“It’s an honest assessment of what the process is like, designed to explain to those reporting to jury duty what their day, or days, will involve. Hopefully those who watch the video will come to understand just how important a role that jurors play in ensuring that our constitutional rights are upheld,” Satterfield added.

The D.C. Superior Court operates on a “one day or one trial” system in which District residents are summoned for one day every two years. If the resident who is summoned is not put on a jury at the end of his or her day of service, the individual doesn’t have to serve again for two years.

Names of jurors are pulled from the D.C. Board of Elections, Department of Employment Services, Department of Human Services, Department of Motor Vehicles, Housing Authority, and Office of Tax and Revenue.

To view the video, visit [www.dccourts.gov/juryvideo](http://www.dccourts.gov/juryvideo).—K.A.